

**MEMORANDUM**

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

## INFORMATION

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Memo No. 1394-77

September 2, 1977

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT**

FROM: Denis Clift   
SUBJECT: Briefing Book for Bilateral Meetings with Latin Leaders

The accompanying briefing book contains papers prepared for the President's meetings this week with the Latin American leaders who are coming to Washington for the September 7 signing of the Panama Canal Treaties.

The book also contains an overview paper on the President's talks with the Latin leaders and a tentative schedule for the week's events.

The President's first meeting will be with General Torrijos of Panama on Tuesday, September 6 at 11:00 a.m. The overall schedule for his bilateral talks is as follows:

September 6, 1977 - Tuesday

30 min	11:00 a.m.	Panama
	2:00 p.m.	Colombia
	3:15 p.m.	Peru
	4:30 p.m.	Paraguay
	5:45 p.m.	Chile

September 7, 1977 - Wednesday

30 min.	1:00 p.m.	Jamaica
	2:15 p.m.	Guatemala
	3:30 p.m.	Venezuela
	4:45 p.m.	Ford

September 8, 1977 - Thursday

30 min.	9:30 a.m.	Canada
.	10:45 a.m.	Bolivia
.	1:30 p.m.	Ecuador
.	2:45 p.m.	Argentina
.	4:00 p.m.	Uruguay
.	5:15 p.m.	Grenada

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September 9, 1977 - Friday

30 min.	9:00 a.m.	El Salvador
	10:15 a.m.	Honduras
	1:30 p.m.	Dominican Republic
	2:45 p.m.	Bahamas
	4:00 p.m.	Costa Rica

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR BILATERALS WITH  
LATIN AMERICAN HEADS OF STATE

INDEX

Scope Paper

Schedule

Bilateral Material (including Checklists,  
Country Background Papers and Biographies)

Background Papers

1. Sugar

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: Warren Christopher, Acting *Mr.*  
SUBJECT: General Considerations in Your Bilaterals  
with Latin American Presidents

Although their public agenda will focus almost exclusively on the new Canal treaties, the private agendas of most Latin American Presidents will be broader. With few exceptions, the Presidents agreed to come to Washington on short notice because they want to be helpful to you -- and because each welcomes the opportunity to meet you and to communicate his country's concerns to you personally.

Specific issues they -- and we -- will want to raise are addressed in individual country papers, and in some cases in options papers for your decision. This memorandum reviews the overall setting of your bilaterals and some of the major issues likely to arise repeatedly.

Courtesy Points

Your guests should leave feeling that they have had a real opportunity to express their views to you -- just as they have recently heard the views of your emissaries. Manley, Oduber, Poveda, Morales Bermudez, Perez and Lopez all received Mrs. Carter warmly. Videla, Mendez, Pinochet, and Stroessner have just concluded useful talks with Terry Todman. Videla, Banzer and Romero also have just met with Patt Derian. And although they could not all come to Washington, Chiefs of State met with Andy Young in all ten countries he visited during his Caribbean trip.

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Each of these Presidents will welcome your mentioning their hospitality -- and will be reassured by your awareness of their recent contacts with your Administration.

Substantive Issues:

Perez, Oduber, Manley (and Lopez Portillo) met with Lopez in Bogota to support you perhaps more than Torrijos. The new Panama treaties, coming as they do on top of your election and personal interest in the area, have aroused considerable expectations that, as you told the OAS in April, we will seek solutions to fit specific problems, respecting the individuality of each country.

Each President will therefore want you to hear his perspective on his country's particular problems. But many Presidents are also concerned with issues that affect several countries. Though very pleased that we have (finally) discovered their individuality, some of them occasionally worry lest we now overlook what they consider to be the broader international sources of some of their problems. Such worries are strongest on economic matters such as terms of trade, trade barriers, and (for most) rising energy costs.

In general, therefore, it will be useful for you to respond to some of their questions by drawing them out by asking for their recommendations and counsel both in general, and on what they consider to be priority North-South issues. This would also confirm the new spirit of consultation we have been endeavoring to establish.

Even so, there are some areas where the Presidents will be particularly eager to hear your position. Three such cases are human rights, peacekeeping (especially in the Andes), and cooperation for development (particularly with regard to the Caribbean Basin).

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Human Rights. No issue has received greater attention in Latin America since your inauguration than human rights. It should be touched on with most if not all Presidents -- if necessary, at your initiative. Our human rights policy achieved support from a majority of the governments at the OAS General Assembly and has produced throughout Latin America a favorable popular attitude toward this country, marking a sharp break with past perception. Conditions vary, of course, from country to country, but it would be helpful for you to reiterate our concerns both in general and in terms of some of the specific multilateral and domestic steps we believe would be helpful. In doing so, you should note that our suggestion are not made out of a desire to act as moral policemen of the world or to interfere in the internal affairs of others, but to seek their cooperation in promoting the international observance of human rights.

It will be as important, moreover, for you to express gratitude to those Presidents who have supported us in the OAS, signed the American Convention on Human Rights, and otherwise attempted to respond positively to our concerns, as it will be to maintain pressure on the leaders of governments whose performance leaves much to be desired.

Peacekeeping. Without prejudging your specific decisions on the options papers submitted to you on interstate tensions, the basic message we need to get across to the Andean countries is our own global commitment to peace and disarmament, and particularly our belief that the Latin American countries can as a region set a useful example to the rest of the world by consolidating their initiatives on the Nuclear Free Zone established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco and on conventional arms restraint as set forth in the 1974 Declaration of Ayacucho. Moreover, we believe that expenditures for costly modern arms tend to be self-defeating for those who undertake them, and that the future lies with subregional integration and development.

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Cooperation for Development. The principle that the countries of this hemisphere have a common interest in development has been strongly entrenched since the days of the Alliance for Progress. Today, the precarious balance of payments position of several Latin countries has heightened their concern that the U.S. market continue to grow rapidly enough to absorb a rising level of their exports. For most Latin countries, increased trade -- and revised global economic arrangements -- rather than aid must form the basis of international cooperation.

The economic (and political) problems of the smaller countries of the Caribbean, however, are particularly acute, and frequently impact directly on our own society. Andy Young has just completed a politically successful trip there, but many Caribbean leaders -- plus Perez, Oduber and Lopez -- are wondering what specifically we have in mind to enhance the stability and development of the area. Our broad options, which require concerted multilateral action, are outlined in the decision paper on the Caribbean.

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PERIODIC REPORTS OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND OTHER OFFICIALS  
[John Carter, Dean] Visit to Brazil & Venezuela (3/11-16/77) [Participates  
Foreign Trip to Venezuela, 9/24/78, Diplomatic]

Other Cart 133

DS trip to Venezuela and Brazil, 3/11-16/77. Backgrounder  
Papers (SD)

State Visit: Venezuela/Perez, Carlos Andrés, 4/27-28/78

[Misc Issues]: Panama Canal Treaty - Bilateral Mts w Lat Am  
Leaders, [9/2-7/77]